

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 153

By Bowling

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate Alexandra M. "Alex" Richman upon being named the 2018 Tennessee Tree Farmer of the Year.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take pleasure in recognizing those industrious Tennesseans who excel in their fields of endeavor and bring pride and prosperity to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Alexandra M. "Alex" Richman, who was recently named the 2018 Tree Farmer of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association, an honor most befitting her dedication to maintaining the integrity of the property and forest under her charge; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Ms. Richman became the chief operating officer of Cumberland Springs Land Company, a 6,000-acre contiguous tract of land in Moore County that her great-grandfather, Lem Motlow, aggregated in the early 1900s. Lem Motlow also owned and operated Jack Daniel Distillery, which the family sold soon after his passing; and

WHEREAS, as the fourth generation of Motlows to manage the property, Alex Richman is active in both the daily activities and the long-term planning to ensure the land remains productive and intact; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Richman holds a bachelor's degree in natural resources from the University of the South and is currently working on her thesis for a master's degree in forestry from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; prior to being named COO of Cumberland Springs, she worked for The Nature Conservancy and the American Forest Foundation (AFF) in Washington, D.C., and was a forester for Panther Creek Forestry; and

WHEREAS, Alex Richman maintains membership in several organizations, including the Quality Deer Management Association, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and Forest Landowners Association; she is also an active member of the Tennessee Forestry Association; and

WHEREAS, a noted leader in her field, Ms. Richman serves on several boards and committees that are concerned with forest health and productivity, including the Tennessee State Technical Advisory Committee (Natural Conservation Service), the White Oak Initiative steering committee, and the Tennessee Tree Farm Committee; in July 2014, she was appointed by Governor Bill Haslam to the Tennessee Forestry Commission, representing landowners of over 500 acres, in which position she will serve until 2019; and

WHEREAS, Alex Richman has a unique understanding of the importance of forestry due to both her education and her experience in every step of the process that takes a tree from planting to an oak barrel at the neighboring distillery; she continues to utilize conservation programs to improve wildlife habitat and forest health, addressing water, soil, and plant resource concerns through timber stand improvement, tree planting, and prescribed burning; and

WHEREAS, over the last several years, she has reforested hundreds of acres with white oak trees in an effort to address the impending shortage of white oak for future generations; she balances this and other efforts with management of the property for timber production, supplying the wood industry with millions of feet of high-quality sawtimber every year; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Richman understands that her family's forest, which has been a certified Tree Farm since 2009, helps provide jobs for loggers, wood for sawmills, and high-quality end products, as well as critical habitat in a wildland-urban interface; her goal is to help forest landowners stay on their land, keep it in their family, and manage it for sustainable production; and

WHEREAS, Alex Richman has worked tirelessly throughout her life to promote responsible, sustainable forestry on her own property and properties across Tennessee, and she is most worthy of recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate Alexandra M. "Alex" Richman upon being named the 2018 Tree Farmer of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association, extending our best wishes for much continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.